

93.

D'ALESSANDRO, JR. ADM. - FILE Inter-racial relations

RG 9 S 23 BOX 276

INTER-  
REC'D JAN 16 1948 RACIAL

STATEMENT BY BALTIMORE INDUSTRIAL UNION COUNCIL, CIO, PRESENTED BY  
SAMUEL SCHMERLER, SECRETARY, JANUARY 14, 1948, AT HEARING CALLED BY BALTIMORE  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

-- The President's Committee on Civil Rights said in October that "Segregation has become the cornerstone of the elaborate structure of discrimination against some American citizens." It called the "separate but equal" theory "one of the outstanding myths of American history" . . . It went on: "Because of the prevailing pattern of segregation, established as a model for youth in the schools and recreation systems, separate tournaments are held for Negro and white boys . . . Without a contest between them, the white boy is automatically designated as the local champion and sent to the national tournament, while the Negro lad is relegated to the position of runner-up. What child can achieve any real understanding of fair play, of sportsmanship, of the rules of the game, after he has personally experienced such an example of inequality? . . . The United States can no longer countenance these burdens on its common conscience, these inroads on its moral fiber."

*I told Sawyer this was off the record, for the time being. Remember it. Sam*

-- Our present Mayor--then a candidate for primary nomination--assured the Baltimore Industrial Union Council that, having felt the lash of discrimination himself, he heartily favors fighting discrimination in the city government and its activities, including enactment of a city civil rights ordinance if we can't get one on a State basis. We accepted his assurances.

-- The National CIO Convention last October and the Maryland State CIO Convention in November unanimously and wholeheartedly resolved to work for abolition of discrimination (including segregation) in all its vicious forms, including enactment of State and city laws guaranteeing full observance of civil rights, with criminal penalties for violations. This is a "must" on our agenda.

-- The Baltimore CIO and its affiliated local unions, have <sup>in the past</sup> challenged the Baltimore Department of Recreation's segregation policy. We say today: "Jim Crow must go!"

Why are workers so vitally interested in this question? Because their basic respect for democracy, and for the proposition that all men are created equal, runs smack into the so-called "Baltimore pattern" sponsored by certain officials. In their own industrial plants and shops, they work together as fellow-workers and friends. In their spare time, they have

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joint recreational sessions at the union halls, including sports, games, parties, and dances. The Baltimore CIO, you may recall, put 15,000 members and their families into Carlin's Park in 1945 for a whole day of sports and fun together--without incident. And so on.

Workers make friends at work--they not only want to work together, but also to play together, on public grounds and facilities, too, without hindrance by the straitjacket of officially sponsored segregation.

Interracial play in this very league was proceeding smoothly, until Recreation officials dug up technicalities, and tried to invoke them. That's what produces friction--not playing together. I don't propose to discuss at length now how segregation and discrimination are basically designed to further exploitation of workers, through dividing them--we repudiated the "divide and conquer" technique in a war in which 300,000 CIO members and other good Americans gave their lives.

It's high time to put a stop to this systematic violation of American democratic tradition, under the <sup>cloak</sup>~~guise~~ of high-sounding alibis. The Baltimore Industrial Union Council and its 60,000 affiliated members call on the Mayor of Baltimore and the Department of Recreation, as well as all other city departments, to wipe out Jim Crow and other forms of discrimination--

NOW!

Thank you.

REC'D JAN 26 1948.

2615 TALBOT ROAD  
WINDSOR HILLS  
BALTIMORE 16, MARYLAND

January 22.

Hon. Thomas D'Alesandro  
City Hall

My dear Mayor D'Alesandro,

I was deeply touched  
five years ago, when you came to  
a memorial meeting in honor of  
my husband, Judge Joseph W. Altman.

It was his belief that segregation  
and oppression of minorities is a  
cruel, undemocratic and dangerous  
policy, that inspires me to write  
to you to-day.

I wish to protest against the  
Department of Recreation's ruling

that future permission be  
denied the Fulton Avenue team  
unless it drop its two Negro  
players.

I cannot believe that you  
concur in this cruel policy.

Very truly yours

Ella L. Alman

(Mrs. Joseph N. Alman)

**CLASS OF SERVICE**

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN  
PRESIDENT

1220

**SYMBOLS**

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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**LD222 AZ NL PD**

BALTIMORE MD JAN 22 1948

THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO JR

CITY HALL BALTO

IF YOUR BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS HAS FINALLY DECIDED TO DENY THE RIGHT OF THE FULTON PCA BASKETBALL TEAM TO PLAY SCHEDULED GAMES IN THE RECREATION LEAGUE. AT ITS MEETING ON JANUARY 20TH THE BOARD DID NOT EVEN EXTEND TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEAM AND TO THE MANY REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING THE HEARING THE COURTESY OF EXPLAINING ITS ACTION. WHAT MOTIVATED THE BOARD IS OF COURSE CLEAR DESPITE ABSENCE OF ANY RULES OR REGULATIONS THE BOARD HAS IN EFFECT BANNED THE TEAM SOLEY ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS COMPOSED OF BOTH NEGRO AND WHITE PLAYERS WE CALL UPON YOU TO STATE PUBLICLY YOUR POSITION ON THE ACTION OF YOUR BOARD WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOU REPUDIATE YOUR BOARDS ACTION AND ORDER THE RESTORATION OF THE TEAM TO ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE BASKET BALL LEAGUE

HENRY BEITSCHER STATE DIRECTOR PROGRESSIVE CITIZENS OF  
AMERICA 328 NORTH CHARLES STREET

858P

BOARD

ROBERT GARRETT  
PRESIDENT  
Garrett Bldg. - 3  
MU 7600



JOSEPH J. KING  
SECRETARY  
Druid Hill Park - 17  
LA 1500

J. MARSHALL BOONE  
MRS. HOWARD W. FORD  
S. LAWRENCE HAMMERMAN  
BERNARD HARRIS, M. D.  
R. WILBURT MARSHECK  
WESTON B. SCRIMGER

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

REC'D JAN 28 1948

Garrett Building  
Redwood & South Sts.  
Baltimore-2, Md.  
January 27, 1948

Honorable Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.  
Mayor of the City of Baltimore  
City Hall  
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Mayor:

In case it would interest or be of some value to you, I thought it might be well to send you this statement of my own attitude towards the recent problem with which we were faced in the Board of Recreation and Parks with reference to the mixture of races in athletic games. Please bear in mind, however, that the Board itself has not formulated any exact explanation of its decision. What follows merely expresses my own individual attitude. It has been drawn up primarily in response to a letter of protest I received and it has not been given to the press. So far as I am aware, there has been no request for a statement from representatives of the press.

I voted in favor of the continuation of our old policy, believing it to be wise to go slowly in this difficult problem. The implications involved are extensive and extremely difficult of solution.

In addition to this, in the present case there were some elements with which, perhaps, you are not fully informed. Many people talk glibly about democracy but democracy involves not merely an attitude on the part of the individual but action on the part of the many. In this case there is no adequate means of determining what the majority may desire. There are many thousands of persons involved in the work of the Department of Recreation and Parks and for us to put over a ruling covering a new practice would in my judgment involve an element of dictatorship. If there were some way to get a vote of the people in question and a majority of them should decide in favor of the amalgamation of the races in sports, I would be ready to go along with them. But I do not see any adequate way to secure a vote on this subject under the auspices of our Department.

Another element that enters into this matter is the sponsorship of the proposal. The team in question with the two colored players is being supported by the "Progressive Citizens of America" and the local representatives of this organization are the ones who are fighting for a change in the present and past practice in such matters. As you may be aware, that organization by general reputation is subversive as to the government of the United States and the American way of life as is shown clearly in the pamphlet covering certain Hearings before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Eightieth Congress

Honorable Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.

- 2 -

First Session, the publication being dated July 21, 1947. A paragraph on Page 152 reads as follows:

At the National Board meeting of Progressive Citizens of America in Chicago on June 30 (1947), the organization went even further on record in behalf of Marxism when it adopted resolutions binding it to fight for the socialization of railroads, power, and coal mines. It had previously gone on record against President Truman's foreign policy, which the PCA criticized as antagonistic to Russia. It had openly opposed the Government's drive to oust Communists from Federal positions. It condemned the demands for the illegalization of the Communist Party. It demanded the renewal of wartime bureaucracy. Mr. Wallace, its mouthpiece, issued a statement a short time ago to the effect that workers of this Nation "look to Russia for inspiration".

We cannot cater to an element that knowingly or ignorantly is disloyal to this country, especially in a matter upon which there has been no determination by democratic processes.

Yours very sincerely,

*Robert F. Carroll*

RG:D

BALTIMORE INTERRACIAL FELLOWSHIP  
21 WEST PRESTON ST - 1

REC'D FEB - 5 1948

February 4, 1948

Rev. Roy Ross  
Council of Christian Education  
203 North Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Rev. Ross,

"The United States can no longer countenance these burdens on its common conscience, these inroads on its moral fiber." These are the words of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

I, as a member of the so-called "majority", and many of my acquaintances likewise, are sick of the burdens heaped on our consciences by the iniquities (iniquities), the crimes and the sins which other members of our so-called "race" practice savagely and gratuitously and persistently against our fellow-man because God has chosen to give them a slightly different pigmentation than than He gave them.

We would normally expect that the Christian Churches as the outstanding exponent of moral righteousness and principles would be taking the leadership in actively and aggressively eradicating these evils. This obviously is not the case. The least we could expect would be that the Christian Churches would be taking steps to bring their own infamous practices of segregation and discrimination in line with their lofty preachments concerning the "brotherhood of man" -- all men. When, on the contrary, so-called "outstanding Christians" not only refuse to practice brotherhood themselves, but use their power and position to prevent and prohibit others from doing so, it is unthinkable.

An amateur basketball team in Baltimore subjected its members on the apparently sane basis of their ability to play basketball, not by their skin color. The members of the team were approved by the Department of Recreation as qualified, and played one game. Although the opponent/s lost, they made no protest. When the Department of Recreation learned that some of the members of the team had been somewhat darker than the others, they instructed that the team would be suspended unless they dropped the Negro players. This, of course, they refused to do.

The Board of Recreation and Parks, presided over by one Robert Garrett, was visited at its next meeting by over one hundred citizens of Baltimore, including official representatives from the Md.-Del. Council of Churches and Christian Education, the Americans for Democratic Action, the Urban League, the Citizens' Committee for Justice, the Baltimore Interracial Fellowship, the Urban League, the Progressive Citizens of America, the NAACP, the American Veterans Committee, and others, to request that the Board lift the suspension imposed by the Department of Recreation. Not one voice was raised in favor of sustaining the suspension.

The answer of the Board was to call out five uniformed policemen and three plain-clothes men, which is certainly unusual procedure. The Board then went into closed session and voted 4-1 to sustain the suspension. Robert Garrett admittedly voted with the majority, although we were informed that it was not usual for the President to vote except in case of tie.

This is the same Robert Garrett who has been voted the Colgate citation for "distinguished service in Christian Education." The action of Robert Garrett not only directly violates one of the fundamental tenets of Christianity, "the brotherhood of man", but prohibits others who desire to adhere to it from so doing.

If "the United States can no longer countenance these burdens on its common conscience", and the President's Committee cites an almost parallel situation in public recreation in Washington as one of the things that can "no longer be countenanced", it is difficult to see how the Christian Churches can do so.

To grant the Colgate citation to Robert Garrett after action so unbecoming to a supposed "Christian" would be a mockery. The least that the spokesmen for the Christian Churches can do is to re-call the citation.

Very truly yours,

*Daniel P. O'Connell*  
Secretary

cc: Rev. Willis Ford  
: NAACP  
: Afro-American  
: PCA  
: Mayor Thomas D'Alessandre

COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

February 13, 1948

Mr. Maurice Braverman  
15 S. Gay Street  
Baltimore-2, Maryland

Dear Mr. Braverman:

Acknowledgement is hereby made of your letter of February 9th in which you protest the action of the Department of Recreation in refusing to allow the PCA basketball team public facilities and membership in the Recreation League.

I appreciate your writing to me expressing your views in this matter and assure you that they will be borne in mind.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

as

*After - Paul*

MAURICE BRAVERMAN ATTORNEY • COUNSELLOR AT LAW

15 SOUTH GAY STREET • BALTIMORE-2, MARYLAND • DAY: SARATOGA 0117 • NIGHT: LAFAYETTE 0022

February 9, 1948

REC'D FEB 10 1948

Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro  
City Hall  
Baltimore - 2, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I wish to register a strong protest over the action of the Department of Recreation in refusing to allow the PCA basketball team public facilities and membership in the Recreation League because two of the members of the basketball team are Negro. This incident has already attracted nationwide attention, and as a Baltimorean, I feel ashamed that this came about through official action of your Administration.

I think that prompt intervention on the part of your office is necessary to overrule the action of the Department of Recreation.

Sincerely yours,

*Maurice Braverman*

mb:jb



COPY

REC'D FEB 19 1948

February 16, 1948

Mrs. Virginia W. Franklin  
1550 Hanover Street  
Baltimore

My dear Mrs. Franklin :

Dr. W.H. Lemmel took up with me your letter of February 6 in which you wrote about the participation of white and colored students in certain school activities.

You first mentioned the Spring Festival of Music. For several years the Baltimore schools have been holding the spring music festivals. In these festivals, which have been held at the Fifth Regiment Armory, both white and colored schools have participated in the same program. This year there will be given either at the Fifth Regiment Armory or in the Stadium a program of instrumental music played by the orchestra and bands of the various secondary schools. Each school will have an opportunity to play two or three pieces separately. At the end, all the schools, both white and colored, will unite in playing a march and the Star Spangled Banner. This program has been discussed by all of our senior high school principals and they all agree that the arrangement is a suitable one. This is no great departure, however, from what has been going on for several years in Baltimore.

Next, you spoke of a joint assembly. I believe you must be referring to a concert to be given by the Band of the Cleveland Heights High School from Cleveland, Ohio, which will be in Baltimore during the last week of March. Plans for having a concert given in the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute auditorium which both white and colored high school students and adults could attend were under discussion. It has since been decided, however, to open this concert to white people only.

I believe this letter answers both questions that you raised in your letter of February 6. However, if it does not, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me and I shall try to give you whatever additional information you desire.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. Carey Taylor,

Assistant Superintendent.

Copies to:  
Mr. Schwatka # 70  
Dr. Lemmel

# Maryland League of Women's Clubs

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1301 MADISON AVENUE  
BALTIMORE 17, MD.

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REC'D FEB 19 1948

February 17, 1948

Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro  
City Hall  
Baltimore 2, Maryland



Honorable Sir:

The Executive Committee of the Maryland League of Women's Clubs asked me to convey to you their hope that you will do all within your power to see that the Bureau of Parks and Recreation does not make a policy preventing races from playing together.

We feel that this is not only a time when we must affirm our belief in democracy but we must help see that it works.

We look to you as one of the leaders to help steer us in the right direction.

Sincerely yours,

*Alice B. Arrington*  
Alice B. Arrington  
President

"C"  
COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

February 19, 1948

Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, President  
Maryland League of Women's Clubs  
1301 Madison Avenue  
Baltimore-17, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Arrington:

In the absence of His Honor, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., who is in New York City attending the United States Conference of Mayors, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 17th expressing the hope of the Executive Committee of the Maryland League of Women's Clubs that the Board of Recreation and Parks will not make a policy preventing races from playing together.

Please be advised that I am forwarding your communication to Mr. Robert Garrett, President of the Board of Recreation and Parks for his attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy C. Shaughnessy,  
Executive Secretary

INTER-RACIAL

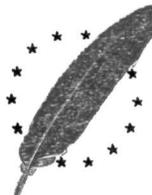
# BALTIMORE URBAN LEAGUE

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE AMONG NEGROES

PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNITY FUND

2404 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, BALTIMORE-17, MD.

TELEPHONES: MADISON 0020-0021



ALEXANDER J. ALLEN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CECIL H. SCOTT

INDUSTRIAL SECRETARY

VELMA T. MCEWEN

WOMEN'S INDUSTRIAL SECRETARY

February 20, 1948

Honorable Thomas D'Alesandro  
Mayor of Baltimore  
City Hall  
Baltimore 2 Maryland

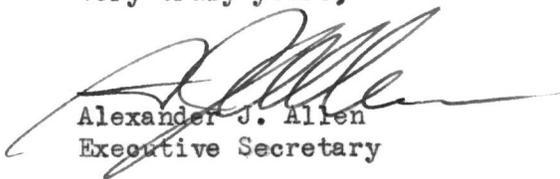
Dear Mayor D'Alesandro:

The Baltimore Urban League along with other organizations, is seriously concerned over the fact that the Park and Recreation Board has thus far failed to reach a decision which will permit free and unrestricted Athletic Competition between the various teams which are eligible to play under its program.

As you may know, Baltimore in recent years has witnessed and wholeheartily accepted interracial sports in such areas as football, baseball, boxing and track. There is no reason why this natural and democratic pattern cannot be extended to include any teams in the city which are mutually willing to compete against each other regardless as to racial competition.

We hope you will use the influence of your office to obtain from the Park and Recreation Board a sound and democratic decision on this issue.

Very truly yours,

  
Alexander J. Allen  
Executive Secretary

AJA/j

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COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

February 24, 1948

Dr. William H. Lemmel, Superintendent  
Department of Education  
3 East 25th Street  
Baltimore 18, Maryland

Dear Dr. Lemmel:

Thank you for your memorandum of February 18th with which you enclosed a copy of letter sent to Mrs. Virginia W. Franklin relative to the participation of white and colored students in certain school activities.

My trip to New York, attending the United States Conference of Mayors, was very interesting and pleasant, although as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, I was kept extremely busy. I feel that the Conference contributed to a better understanding of problems common to municipalities and was beneficial not only to myself, but also to the other City officials who attended.

With best wishes and kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

as

BOARD

ROBERT GARRETT  
PRESIDENT  
Garrett Bldg. - 3  
MU 7600



JOSEPH J. KING  
SECRETARY  
Druid Hill Park - 17  
LA 1500

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BERNARD HARRIS, M. D.  
R. WILBURT MARSHECK  
WESTON B. SCRIMGER

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

RECEIVED

FEB 26 1948

MAYOR'S OFFICE

Garrett Building  
Redwood & South Sts.  
Baltimore-2, Md.  
February 24, 1948

Mr. Leroy C. Shaughnessy  
Executive Secretary to the Mayor  
City Hall  
Baltimore-2, Md.

Dear Mr. Shaughnessy:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of February 19th to Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, President of the League of Maryland Women's Clubs. You also sent me the original letter from her to the Mayor dated February 17th.

I shall endeavor shortly to draw up an answer to Mrs. Arrington which I trust will be reasonably satisfactory and shall send you a copy of this.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert L. Garrett*

RG:D

INTER-RACIAL

COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

February 25, 1948

Mr. Alexander J. Allen, Exec. Secretary  
~~Baltimore Urban League~~  
2402 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Baltimore-17, Maryland

Dear Mr. Allen:

Acknowledgement is hereby made of your letter of February 20th informing me that the Baltimore Urban League along with other organizations, is seriously concerned over the fact that the Board of Recreation and Parks has thus far failed to reach a decision which will permit free and unrestricted athletic competition between the various teams which are eligible to play under its program.

Please be advised that I am bringing your letter to the attention of Mr. Robert Garrett, President of the Board of Recreation and Parks for his consideration.

Thank you for giving me the benefit of your views in this matter, and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

as

*Walter R. Powell*

C O P Y

RECEIVED  
FEB 26 1948  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Garrett Building  
Redwood & South Sts.  
Baltimore-2, Md.  
February 25, 1948

Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, President  
Maryland League of Women's Clubs  
1301 Madison Avenue  
Baltimore-17, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Arrington:

Mr. Shaughnessy, Executive Secretary to the Mayor, has sent me your letter addressed to the Mayor under date of February 17th. He asked me to give the matter contained in your letter proper attention.

You have asked the Mayor "to see that the Bureau of Parks and Recreation does not make a policy of preventing races from playing together". I desire to call your attention to the fact that we have made no new policy but have continued that of many years standing.

In what follows, please bear in mind that I am stating my own views of this situation and not necessarily expressing exactly the attitude of the Board of Recreation and Parks. That Board has not formulated any statement but has simply continued the old practice of the former Department of Public Recreation.

I voted in favor of the continuation of this policy believing it to be wise to go slowly. The implications involved are extensive and extremely difficult of solution.

In the present instance there were some elements of which you are not fully advised. In the first place it is estimated that some ninety odd percent of the totals of many thousands of individuals involved in the so-called sandlot sports of Baltimore are white. Just how many, the figures in our files would probably show on careful examination. It seems to me that before deciding to change the old policy, we should have some knowledge of the attitude of the majority of the persons concerned. But we have no adequate means of securing this information.

Many people talk glibly about Democracy, but Democracy, I believe, involves not merely an attitude on the part of the individual but a decision on the part of the many concerned in any given issue. If there were some means of determining this and the majority should favor the uniting of the races in sandlot sports, I would be ready to go along with them, but if we were to make a

Mrs. Alice B. Arrington, President  
Maryland League of Women's Clubs

- 2 -

new ruling on this subject, this would in my judgement involve an arbitrary action on the part of a handful of people not directly concerned.

Another element that enters into this matter is the sponsorship of the proposal. The team in question with the two colored players is being supported by the "Progressive Citizens of America" and the local representatives of this organization are the ones who are fighting for a change in the present and past practice in such matters. As you may be aware, that organization by general reputation is subversive as to the government of the United States and the American way of life as is shown clearly in the pamphlet covering certain Hearings before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, Eightieth Congress First Session, the publication being dated July 21, 1947. A paragraph on Page 152 reads as follows:

At the National Board meeting of Progressive Citizens of America in Chicago on June 30 (1947), the organization went even further on record in behalf of Marxism when it adopted resolutions binding it to fight for the socialization of railroads, power, and coal mines. It had previously gone on record against President Truman's foreign policy, which the PCA criticized as antagonistic to Russia. It had openly opposed the Government's drive to oust Communists from Federal positions. It condemned the demands for the illegalization of the Communist Party. It demanded the renewal of wartime bureaucracy. Mr. Wallace, its mouthpieces, issued a statement a short time ago to the effect that workers of this Nation "look to Russia for inspiration".

We cannot cater to an element that knowingly or ignorantly is disloyal to this country, especially in a matter upon which there has been no determination by democratic processes.

Sincerely yours,

(S) Robert Garrett

RG:D

P.S. This will also answer your letter addressed to me under date of February 17th.

March 22, 1948

Editor of the Evening Sun  
Baltimore, Maryland

Sir:

Having read an article in Monday's Morning Sun, under the heading "D'Alesandro Made Target", the writer after carefully observing the acts of the reactionary forces in the state of Maryland, namely his Excellency Governor Lane, have noticed that he has become quite an artist in his role as peacemaker in the Democratic Party.

One day he is champion of the President's program, and the next day he is in complete agreement with the vicious southern group. In attempt to disregard the decision handed down by the Supreme Court in reference to equal education opportunities.

The writer has no desire to enter into a controversy with the southern state over their method selected to comply with that decision. But being of Negro ancestry and a property owner, a taxpayer and being very much aware of the increased real estate holdings of members of my group in the past few years I wish to assure you that we have no intention of sending our children out of the state to obtain the necessary education.

The state of Maryland, inspite of Himmler's assistant, Dr. Bard, distinguished head of the Maryland University, must supply educational facilities for the present generation of my race. If the state of Maryland do not care to have children of our race in its colleges, I assure you I personally do not care to have my child attend any of the so-called lily white colleges, then necessary expenditures must be made to make Morgan College a first rate college including Medical and Surgical studies.

Very truly yours,

Herman Williams

RECEIVED

MAR 24 1948

MAYOR'S OFFICE

March 22, 1948

Mayor D'Alesandro and City Council  
Baltimore, Maryland

Gentlemen:

Having read in the Morning Sun, March 22, 1948, a statement made by a member of your distinguished group, one DiDomenico; I am compelled out of respect to fellow members of my race to register a protest. Since the gentleman in question having disrobed himself of the dignity and respect that is usually given to a member of your group, it is indeed a delightful pleasure for me to use the language that obviously the gentleman has a masters degree.

Having read Hitler's "Mein Kampf", this image of a man obviously would like to practice the teachings illustrated by the late Hitler in organizing his alien idealologies that brought destruction to Germany. We Negroes are proud of the fact that we are Negroes, and we do not need this particular image to champion our constitutional rights. With what right does a fugitive from an asylum, assume that he has the right to preach the doctrine of the Palmedges, the Bilboas, and that famous group of nitwits that preach the so called White Supremacy. that he is speaking for the rank and file voters of the City of Baltimore.

We notice that on last week when the President of the United States addressed congress on the retention of selective service he did not mention the fact that it was to be conducted on a lily white basis. We have in the past answered the call of our government and country in bearing arms to defend this so called Democracy. We as the minority group expect the city of Baltimore to join the Union in enacting the necessary legislature to correct the evils so brilliantly described by DiDomenico as released in the Morning Sun. We oppose segregation, discrimination in all forms, and I personally wish to assure the gentleman that I personally have no desire of commingling with him or anyone else of his creed.

Having read the statement of this person, I am some what surprised to find that he himself is of the minority group. It

*After IR*

HERMAN  
WILLIAMS

Mayor D'Alesandro and Council -2-

March 22, 1948

is inconceivable that a member of your august body in his desire to vent his spleen on you and Sidney Hollander, should elect the Negro citizen as prime topic and it will be a pleasure in the forth coming election to mail him, mail G. O. D. to the arms of the champions of this so called White Supremacy.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "H. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Herman Williams

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION (15)

JOSEPH L. EGAN  
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter  
NL = Night Letter  
LC = Deferred Cable  
NLT = Cable Night Letter  
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THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO BEN FRANKLIN HOTEL

*File*

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION HEADQUARTERS PHILA

THE ACTION OF YOUR CITY GOVERNMENT IN ITS BRUTAL ARREST OF YOUNG NEGRO AND WHITE PEOPLE FOR THE MERE FACT OF THEIR HAVING PLAYED TENNIS TOGETHER ON A PUBLIC COURT IS THE CLEARST POSSIBLE INDICATION OF THE UTTER HYPOCRISY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S STAND ON CIVIL RIGHTS. WHILE WITH YOUR MOUTH YOU PRATE OF DEMOCRACY, WITH THE METHODS OF A POLICE STATE YOU DESTROY IT. WE OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONDEMN AND WILL OPPOSE WITH EVERY MEANS WITHIN OUR POWER ALL ATTEMPTS ON THE PART OF THE UNHOLY BI-PARTISAN COALITION TO CONTINUE AND EXTEND JIM CROW. WE URGE YOU TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THE DEMOCRATIC CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM INTO REALITY AND PROVE US WRONG

WILLIAM CAPITMAN ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*John R. ...*

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Rus

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*[Signature]*

COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

July 29, 1948

Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, President  
National Association for the  
Advancement of Colored People  
402 Dolphin Street  
Baltimore-17, Maryland

Dear Mrs. Jackson:

This is to acknowledge your letter of July 24 relative to the matter of race relations and the activity of the Park Board of the City.

This matter is now before the Courts of the State and is not subject to public discussion until after a judicial determination has been made.

I might say that the whole matter of race relations has been one of very real concern to me since my early days in the legislature.

Recently, I have given a good deal of attention to the whole problem and am more than ever conscious of some of the serious issues involved. I do want you to know that I am always glad to have a free expression of opinion from you and from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is only by being frank that we can really move forward in solving the whole problem.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

*John P. Ross*

BALTIMORE BRANCH

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

402 DOLPHIN STREET  
BALTIMORE 17, MARYLAND

MRS. LILLIE M. JACKSON  
PRESIDENT

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MRS. BIRTSAL ROSS  
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MRS. EVA TAYLOR  
REV. WILBUR WATERS  
DR. CHARLES WATTS  
DR. WILLIAM WATTS  
EDWARD WHARTON  
REV. J. O. WILLIAMS  
REV. V. T. WILLIAMS  
REV. D. A. WILSON  
RAYMOND A. C. YOUNG

RECEIVED

JUL 26 1948

MAYOR'S OFFICE

MILTON P. BROWN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
LEGAL REDRESS  
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MEMBERSHIP  
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STEERING  
MRS. BEATRICE MARTIN  
HOUSING  
ATTY. ERNEST PERKINS  
LEGISLATIVE  
CLIFTON GATEWOOD  
VETERANS  
MRS. FLORENCE SNOWDEN  
CHURCH

July 24, 1948

Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.  
City Hall  
Baltimore 2, Maryland

Dear Mayor D'Alesandro:

Democracy loving citizens laid party affiliation aside and voted for you as Mayor of this city, feeling that you believe in a democracy for all. The Park Board, which you have appointed, is a disgrace to the democratic way of life and we believe that you should take steps to correct this situation. By behaving in an arbitrary manner, your Board has created unnecessary issues as pertains to the municipal golf courses and tennis courses of this city.

Since your party is committed to a program of Civil Rights, it would seem politically and morally expedient to give some slight evidence of it in your local territory. Maryland must awaken. The issue is clearly defined as Democracy versus Fascism with the complete domination and control of minority groups. We sincerely hope that all Americans love democracy and for this reason we will continue our efforts to point out discrepancies between our ideals and practices.

Please, for the betterment of Baltimore, use the authority of your office to eliminate the barriers which prevent liberty, equality and justice.

Yours truly,

*Lillie M. Jackson*

(Mrs.) Lillie M. Jackson  
President

LMJ/ecf

October 14, 1948

Dr. John E. T. Camper ★  
639 N. Carey Street  
Baltimore - 17, Maryland

Dear Sir:

Subsequent to the appearance of a delegation before me on Monday, August 30, 1948, relative to segregation in the public parks, a suit was instituted in the United States District Court concerning segregation in Druid Hill Park, one of the public parks of Baltimore.

Also, pending in the Criminal Court of Baltimore is a charge growing out of the same situation.

Under the circumstances, I feel that it would be improper to now make a public statement as requested by you.

Very truly yours,

TD, Jr./ERS

Mayer

*John P. ...*  
= =

Hand 2

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Three East Twenty-Fifth Street  
BALTIMORE 18, MARYLAND



WILLIAM H. LEMMEL  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

February 18, 1948

Honorable Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.,  
Mayor of the City of Baltimore,

Dear Mr. Mayor:

Concerning the letter from Mrs. Virginia W. Franklin, I am attaching carbon copy of letter to Mrs. Franklin, which you will find self-explanatory. The policy we are following this year is in line with policies of schools for many years, I am told.

Trust that you had a pleasant, and not too arduous, meeting in New York. With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Lemmel*

WHL:HS  
Enc.

File

"C"



THOMAS D'ALESSANDRO, JR.  
MAYOR

January 29, 1948

Mr. Robert Garrett, President  
Garrett Building  
Baltimore-3, Maryland

Dear Mr. Garrett:

Thank you for your interesting letter of January 27th setting forth your views with respect to the question which has recently arisen before the Board of Recreation and Parks as to bi-racial participation in athletic games.

While I appreciate your consideration in explaining your views, may I take the liberty of indicating some thoughts that occur to me, although I realize that the matter is one for your Board and not for the Mayor to determine.

In the first place, there are many good proposals that suffer from bad sponsorship. As public officials it is our duty to consider and decide questions that properly come before us, on the basis of their merit regardless of sponsorship. If the policy of segregation is opposed by the Progressive Citizens of America, an organization with which you and I are not in sympathy, that alone would not justify your Board in persisting in this policy if you should conclude that it was not right. The Board should neither allow this organization to dictate a change in policy according to its wishes nor should the Board feel driven to take the opposite position merely because this organization has interceded.

The responsibility for administering the recreational activities and the parks of Baltimore is with your Department, and you and your colleagues, after considering the matter carefully, should act in accordance with your best judgment under your oaths of office and in the best interests of the community to which you are responsible. As you say, it is not possible to obtain a vote on such a question, nor is this necessary, for many important decisions are made daily by public officials who are chosen for this very purpose, without the opportunity for a referendum.

Sincerely yours,

*John Rowell*

Mayor

COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

July 29, 1948

Mr. Ben C. Everingham ★  
Miss Marjorie N. Everingham  
2204 Rosedale Street  
Baltimore-16, Maryland

Dear Mr. and Miss Everingham:

This is to acknowledge your recent letter relative to the matter of race relations with reference to Recreation and Parks.

I can only say at this time that the whole matter is before the State Courts for decision and until a judicial determination has been made the matter cannot be publicly discussed.

I want to thank you for your letter stating your views on the issues involved and I want you to feel free to write relative to any matter in which you may be interested.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

*John P. Rouse*

2204 Rosedale Street  
Baltimore, 16, Maryland.

RECEIVED

JUL 26 1948

MAYOR'S OFFICE

July 23, 1948

Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro  
City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland.

Mayor D'Alesandro:

We wish to register with you a very strong and unequivocal protest against the rulings of the Baltimore Board of Recreation and Parks in reference to recreation involving only first-class citizens of this city conducting themselves in an orderly manner, i.e. the disgracefully arrested tennis players and the golfers backed by the Federal Court.

We are opposed to regulations by any civic authority which divide our people and stigmatize any as undesirable or second class citizens. Any government which can not protect the Constitutional Rights of all our people and work within the spirit and the letter of our basic code of social justice we will always vote against and encourage as many others as possible to vote out of office and keep out of office.

Very truly yours,

*Marjorie N. Everingham*  
Marjorie N. Everingham

*Ben C. Everingham*  
Ben. C. Everingham

COPY  
MAYOR'S OFFICE  
BALTIMORE

August 23, 1948

Dr. John E. T. Camper ★  
639 North Carey Street  
Baltimore 17, Maryland

Dear Dr. Camper:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 22nd with reference to your request for an appointment to discuss certain phases of rulings by the Park Board in the matter of alleged racial segregation.

As this matter is now in the process of adjudication by our Courts, it would not be ethical or wise for me to weigh or pass comment or in any way prejudge the action of the court.

Therefore, I do not deem it expedient to hold a meeting on the subject in question at this time. I am sure you will appreciate the reason for this decision.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor

INTER-RACIAL

lp

WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT,  
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE MATTER YOU BRING TO MY  
ATTENTION AND WHICH YOU INDICATE YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
DISCUSS, IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF ADJUDICATION BY OUR  
COURTS AND /MAYOR DOES NOT DEEM IT ETHICAL OR WISE TO  
WEIGH IT OR PASS COMMENT UPON IT AT THIS TIME.

/AS MAYOR PREVIOUSLY STATED, HE

*Bulldog*

JOHN E. T. CAMPER, M. D.  
639 N. CAREY STREET  
BALTIMORE 17, MD.  
—  
TEL. GIL 1249

RECEIVED  
SEP 2 1948  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

September 4, 1948

Honorable Thomas E. D'Alesandro, Jr.  
City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Mr. Mayor:

In accordance with your request, I am here-  
with formally placing in writing the proposal that our  
delegation made to you on Monday, August 30, 1948.

We respectfully submit that the facilities of  
the public parks should be made available for recreational  
purposes to all people without regard to race, creed or  
color. In that way, recurrences of the tennis court inci-  
dent would be avoided.

Since there is no basis in law for the present  
policy and since also segregation policies in the park are  
contradictory and have not been consistently enforced, the  
elimination of the present segregation practices in park  
recreational facilities would meet with the approval of the  
majority of the people of Baltimore.

We therefore request: (1) a public statement  
from you that your administration's policy is to oppose segre-  
gation in public facilities; (2) that you apply this policy  
to the park board and (3) that you propose to the City  
Council an ordinance outlawing segregation in all public  
facilities under the jurisdiction of the City of Baltimore.

In accordance with your statement to the delega-  
tion we expect an early reply.

Sincerely yours,

*Dr. J. E. T. Camper*  
Dr. J. E. T. Camper

Open

JOHN E. T. CAMPER, M. D.  
639 N. CAREY STREET  
BALTIMORE 17, MD.  
—  
TEL. GIL 1249

RECEIVED  
AUG 23 1948  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

August 22, 1948

Mayor Thomas D'Alexandro  
Office of Mayor  
City Hall  
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Sir:

I am writing to request an appointment if possible, with you at 3 O'clock P.M. Wednesday August 25, 1948.

This request comes from a broad Citizens group, composed of the executive secretary of the N. A. A. P. and several of its board members, city wide civic groups and ministers who would like to discuss with you some of the problems raised by the action of the Park Board in its recent rulings on amateur sports with regard to segregation.

Hoping that you will find it convenient to grant this request

I am Respectfully Yours,  
John E. T. Camper, M.D.

*file*

RECEIVED

JUL 1 1954

MAYOR'S OFFICE

July 13, 1954

Miss Louisa Ted Motley  
P O Box 324  
Severna Park, Maryland

Dear Miss Motley:

Thank you for sending me your thoughtful letter of July 10 and the copy of your letter to the Richmond Times Dispatch.

All of us must recognize that the elimination of racial segregation will not be accomplished overnight and will require readjustment on the part of many people of both races. Because of long-standing habits of association, it would be unreasonable to assume that the Supreme Court opinion and any subsequent decrees could possibly do more than remove the legal basis for racial segregation in the schools. Voluntary social segregation will undoubtedly continue.

It seems to me that we shall deal most wisely with the adjustments which lie ahead of us if we adhere to the basic principle of recognizing individual human beings in terms of their individual characteristics, rather than according to group stereotypes. A natural consequence of acting according to this principle is that children and adults will be free to choose their friends on the basis of mutual interests, tastes, and backgrounds. This, of course, is what happens in our schools today where no one assumes that any pupil will select as a close friend every other child in the class.

I am not in a position to predict what will occur in other states or, indeed, in other parts of our own state but judging on the basis of many years of experience which we in Baltimore have had in activities involving both races I am confident that we may expect a maximum of good judgment and good sense in both groups. Knowing what I do of the people of this city, it is to me completely unthinkable that there will be here any of the sort of trouble to which you refer in your letter.

With best wishes to you, I am,

Sincerely,

John H. Fischer  
Superintendent

*Interracial  
Committee  
July '54*

gb  
cc/ Mayor D'Alesandro  
Governor McKeldin